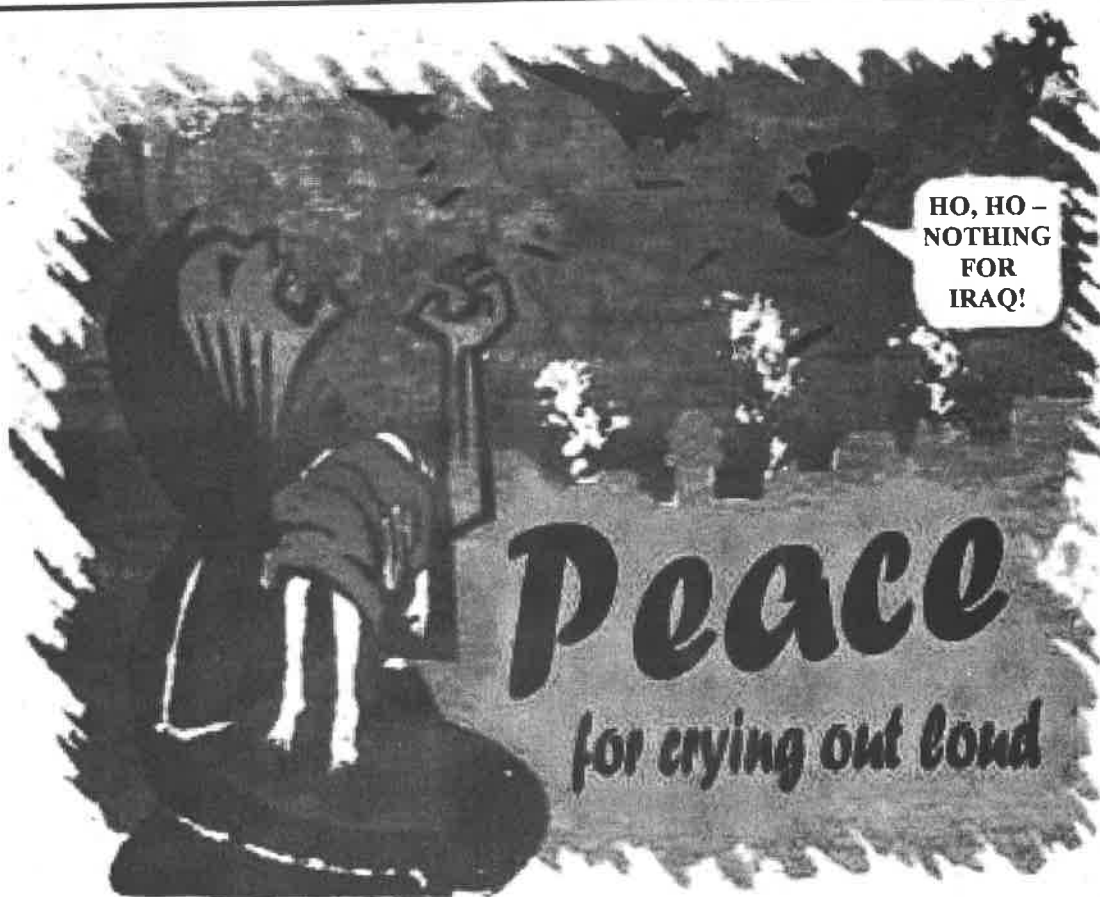




via pacis

Newsletter of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community



Chuck Trapkus

*When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star of the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock...*

The work of Christmas begins:

*to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild nations,
to bring peace among sisters and brothers,
and to make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman



AMERICAN AND/OR CHRISTIAN?

Mark Lindahl

Last issue of the *via pacis*, we had a true patriot can also be a Christian and invited your response. Several of you wrote to us and a range of your responses is set up in the letters reprinted

word "patriot" suggests bound- and a commitment to separation. word "Christian," on the other implies the opposite: all-encom- unity. We wondered if these could be reconciled and your let- ters to all who responded!

answer to your question, can a be a good American according government view as well as a Catholic, I know the answer is good American believes in kill- good Catholic doesn't.

McSorley, SJ

and it is almost impossible to and the media hype, whose goal usurp our hearts and minds, to that we are full participants in consumer society. Anyone taking Testament seriously would impossible to be integrated into American mainstream. Like our brethren, "who are in this world,

but not of the world," we also are called to follow a different drummer. Peter Maurin directed us, "To build a New Society within the Shell of the Old, where it would be easier for God's people to be good." Dorothy Day reminded us that at times it would be necessary, "to be fools for Christ's Sake." We have been so directed by the saints that came before us.

Patrick Murray

I cannot read Scripture from the margins of society and answer yes.

Brad Bates

Thank you for your request to respond to questions regarding "a truly patriotic American," which I have thought about often since reading the July 2002 *via pacis*.

Can anyone fully integrated in American culture and obedient to all its laws be a true Christian? Undoubtedly, many people have been, particularly men and women devoted to the poor or others in need, though it becomes increasingly difficult to manage.

As Ammon Hennacy used to say, a bad law is no better than any other bad thing. Similarly, Mulford Sibley argued, in his great pamphlet, "The Politics of Pacifism," that American citizens have not only the right, but also the obligation to disobey. It is a

right acknowledged by the Declaration of Independence. When law no longer upholds justice, one must, in conscience, break the law. That powerful theme also informs Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" and Martin Luther King's "Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam."

This principle is central to the rich tradition of nonviolence in the United States, from the early Quakers, through Thomas Paine and John Woolman, and William Lloyd Garrison to Eugene Victor Debs and Dorothy Day—that is in the noblest lives and writings in our history.

These Americans disobeyed the law not out of disrespect, but out of respect for it. In resisting slavery, war taxes, the manufacture and deployment of weapons of mass destruction, abolitionists, workers, feminists, draft resisters, and plowshares keep that tradition alive. Similarly, School of Americas Watch and Voices in the Wilderness set a standard by which we measure the practice of responsible citizenship.

Michael True

Concerning your question "Is it possible for a truly patriotic American, one who obeys all American laws, and who lives fully integrated into our culture, to also be a true Christian?"

This is the only reality I know. I plan to continue to donate blood at the Blood Center of Iowa. I will read to the

blind under the IRIS program at the public radio station twice a month. I will continue my volunteer work with the Habitat For Humanity Chapter. I plan to continue to lecture at five o'clock Mass at Holy Rosary Catholic Church. I'll help out at church suppers when they need help. I'll pray the rosary at the Villa Care Nursing Home. I'll pray the rosary at the funeral home for deceased members of the Knights of Columbus. I will pay my union dues to AFSCME. I will continue to pray, read the Bible and try to live as a Christian. I am fully aware that I do not have all the answers. Nor am I a candidate for sainthood.

Your question smacks of a condescending "holier than thou" attitude toward working class patriotic Americans like myself "who obey all American laws and who live fully integrated into our culture to also be a true Christian."

Quit acting like the Pharisee in the temple justifying yourself by judging "Patriotic Americans who obey all American laws." Publicans like myself. Get off your high horse.

I'll stay back in the temple with my head bowed, beating my breast, and asking for God's forgiveness. You folks need to develop some humility.

Daniel J. Bednar

CLEAN SWEEP

Des Moines homeless say police are harassing them and forcing them further into hiding

Excerpts from *PointBlank*
article by Tim Schmitt

the bridge near the baseball was home for several men. roars just a few feet overhead in often drips down the wall into ing spaces, but the men were by. ings were usually kept in the real sleeping areas and were left by others living nearby. They fished together from under the e and always watched each backs. Some guys had been there all year.

past, police would come down onally and ask if everything was o make sure there were no prob- in the camp. However, this Sep- the police came in with flash- yelling and everybody ran off. nearby they watched as two came up and started grabbing thing and throwing it into the sleeping bags, tents, fishing

less people, mainly men, have telling each other of police action s for the last couple of weeks. It happened on the south side about before.

Veteran's Administration had ntly handed out 230 sleeping as well as tents, boots, and cloth- the annual Homeless Veteran's Down. And now much of that is bottom of the Des Moines River ssy of the Des Moines Police De- ment. Sleeping bags, blankets, resses, and clothing are washed in the river banks or stranded upon



the sandbars near almost every homeless encampment in town.

The National Coalition for the Homeless recently released a study titled "Illegal to be Homeless: The Criminalization of Homelessness in the U.S." which looks at actions like those taking place in Des Moines. The reasons stated in this study for this criminalization are many and varied, but most relate to simply trying to get the homeless out of sight and out of mind rather than dealing with the underlying causes of poverty and lack of affordable quality housing. The study found that in 100% of communities surveyed,

there are not enough shelter beds to meet demand and housing costs are out of reach for the working poor.

The few opportunities that do exist for homeless people to get into housing are often made more difficult because of arbitrary arrests they face. In addition to lack of funds and job skills, many homeless people now have criminal records that make it even more difficult to get into housing.

Some guys sleep at homeless camps until about 3 AM when they get up to go to jobs in day labor. They wake early to walk several miles to the office where they hope to get work by mid morning. After working for minimum wage and paying out of the day's salary for transportation to and from work and having an additional percentage taken out of

their checks when cashing them on site, some bring home less than \$20.

The guys are cautious about talking. They don't want to do anything that will make them even more of a target for police. "They just knock us around like pinballs," says one man. "The homeless are easy prey. We've got nothing and we're defenseless. They're just being mean for meanness' sake. Trying to scare us. And it works.

Donations may be sent to the DMCW, PO Box 4551, Des Moines, IA 50306, designated for supplies for these men.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Should Christians vote? In which kingdom should this practice be classified...the Kingdom of Man or the Kingdom of God?

Emma Goldman said, "If voting could change things, it would be illegal."

State Representative Ed Fallon says, "Not voting, in my opinion, is just plain dumb and an abdication of one important tool we have to make a difference in the lives of the powerless."

Brian Terrell says, "Potentially, voting does more harm than good. Voting, we should remember, is not doing anything to see that justice prevails. It is merely saying that if the majority wants justice, one is willing to go along with everyone else -- a weak statement at best, dangerous if anyone thinks that they are accomplishing anything by it."

What do **you** think? We will print responses to this question in the next issue of the *via pacis*. Please reply to francfuller@msn.com or

Fran Fuller
DM Catholic Worker
PO Box 4551
Des Moines, IA 50306





Jackie Robinson, Vern (Ted) Walker, Carla Dawson

2002 Chicago Marathon

by Ted Walker

I think everyone believed I could run a marathon, except for myself. It began six months ago as a crazy ploy to start exercising regularly, something I hadn't managed to do since the high school track team. First, I needed a distant goal — the Chicago Marathon; second, a training schedule—Smallie Peg helped with that; third, a trainer who would keep after me — Carla was perfect! (See photo on page 3.)

My first run was to the highway and back, which is a total of about eight blocks. I was hurting bad! But slowly I increased mileage, and Jackie and Carla would get me out the door each day whether I wanted to or not, and the rest of the community encouraged me by asking me how far I was running and cheering me on.

Then came one Saturday morning a month and a half before the race. Carla and I woke up at 5 AM and drove down to the park. I was to run my longest distance before the

Marathon — 20 miles. Carla drove ahead every mile, mile and a half, with a supply of Gatorade and water. It seemed to take forever, and it didn't take long for me to run out of things to think about, or songs to sing, to keep my mind occupied. But each time I reached the car, Carla held out some drink with a great big smile, and all the faith in the world to keep me going.

It was the same way during the Marathon. Jackie, Carla and my mom skipped around the city to cheer me on at different mile marks. They kept me going when I didn't think I could go on. I did finish the 20 miles that early Saturday morning, and I completed the whole 26.2 miles of the Chicago Marathon! Thanks to Peg, my training was perfect. I came through the half way mark at 2 hours, 7 minutes and finished, without hitting a wall, in 4 hours, 17 minutes.

Besides walking stiff-legged and funny for a few days afterwards (Irving couldn't believe

the police didn't pick me up for public intoxication while walking downtown like that!), I wasn't even hurt. Even after I finished the race, I couldn't believe I did it and it still feels like a dream. Yet, I think the greatest lesson I learned from this experience was that even though I was the only one running, I couldn't have done it without the support and faith of my family, my own and the DMCW community. So, all I can say is "Thank you!" and I plan on retiring my running shoes for a while!



"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be measured by the way its animals are treated." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

via pacis

Des Moines Catholic Worker Community Newsletter

PO Box 4551

Des Moines IA 50306

Editor: Fran Fuller

Layout and design: Fran Fuller

Copy Editor: Becca Lindahl

Subscriptions & correspondence: Fr. Frank Cordaro at above address

Photos by DMCW unless otherwise noted.

The Des Moines Catholic Worker Community, founded in 1976, is a response to the Gospel call to compassionate action as summarized by the Sermon on the Mount. In the spirit of the Catholic Worker tradition, we are committed to a simple, nonviolent lifestyle as we live and work among the poor. We directly serve others by opening our home for those in need of food, clothing, bedding, a shower, or a cup of coffee and conversation. We also engage in activities that foster social justice.

Bishop Dingman House

1310 - 7th Street

(515) 243-0765

Community members:

Brad Bates

Fr. Frank Cordaro

Jerry Dermody

Richard Flamer

Claire Quiner

Msgr. Ligutti House

1301 - 8th Street

(515) 282-0583

Community members:

Mike & Fran Fuller

Yusupha Sanneh

Lazarus House

1317 - 8th Street

(515) 246-1499

Community members:

Ed Bloomer

The Dawson family: Carla

Julius, Joshua & Jordan

Jackie Robinson

Irving Schroeder

Ted Walker

Community Garden

Garden Coordinators:

(515) 279-6368

Sheila Rouse

Fran Fuller, assistant

visit our website: www.no-nukes.org/dmcw/



Sheila Rouse
Personal Chef
515-279-6368

Vegetarian Lasagna

- 1 bunch minced broccoli
- 3 shredded carrots
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1 small diced onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 carton firm tofu
- 1 package soy shredded mozzarella cheese
- ¾ cup Parmesan cheese
- Lasagna noodles
- Pasta sauce
- Salt and pepper

Sauté veggies in olive oil. Place in large bowl. Add tofu, ¾ of mozzarella, ½ of Parmesan, salt and pepper. Mix well. Add lasagna noodles. Place cooked noodle on cutting board. Spread large spoonful of tofu/veggie mixture on top of noodle. Roll the noodle jellyroll style. Place roll down in an oiled glass dish. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Top with pasta sauce and reserved mozzarella and Parmesan. Bake at 350 degrees until heated through.



2002 Sugar Creek Retreat

Photo by Mary



Friday 7:30 PM

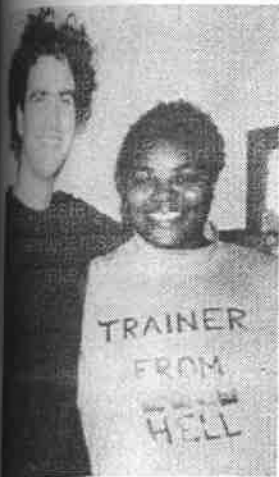
Dingman

1310 -

Des Moines

Celebrate the
and spend time
friends

Community NEWS



Ted Walker and his "Trainer from Hell"

How is everyone? I hope this article finds you all enjoying this brisk weather. It has been very busy at the Worker House. We have been feeding 30 plus people on a daily basis. The shower has been going nonstop. We can't keep clean socks, blankets or toilet paper. We have not been giving out groceries because we don't have them to give. We have been going through hard times, but we paid taxes and no one leaves hungry or dirty which is not a small feat. We do feel blessed that we have Fr. Frank back home. He missed him terribly until he was home for a few days! He and always will be our cross to bear! Richard Flamer is working on finishing up the Dingman house porch and railing. He also had an art show in Omaha. He will be going back

to Chiapas in January and plans to stay there indefinitely.

Ed Bloomer is as always working like there is no tomorrow. He is hopefully going to see his mom at Thanksgiving time. Ed's good works are a daily reminder of how far the rest of us are off the mark in how we treat our fellow human beings.

Vern (Ted) Walker is an inspiration to our community. He not only takes a shift every day, he works nights at UPS, trained for the Chicago Marathon and is a nice guy to boot. Now, if that is not putting all your God-given talents to work, I don't know what is.

Ted and Jackie drove to Chicago for the Marathon on Friday, October 11th. Ted's mom, Liz, flew in from New York on Saturday morning, and I flew in on Saturday night. Jackie and I stayed with our friend, former JV (Jesuit Volunteer), Margaret Collins, better known as "Smallie Peg." Jackie and I woke early to go to the Marathon to try to see Ted at the starting line. His mom, Liz, saw him at the start of the race. Jackie and I saw him at mile two. Liz again saw him at mile three. We all saw him at mile eleven and he was going great.

We hopped on a packed train and tried to see him at mile 20 but we missed him and we missed him crossing the finish line. But we met up with him at the "Runners Reunite" under the "W" banner. He was a sight to see, he was so

happy. He never thought he could run 26.2 miles, but we all knew he could do it. We are very proud of Ted's accomplishment. He finished in 4 hours and 17 minutes. Awesome!

Fran was gone for two weeks to visit her daughter in Romania. She had a wonderful visit. She was impressed with the rehab that was going on there. Mike was not himself with Fran gone. He did get in a few extra chess games. He took shifts on the House to fill in for Fran.

Claire has been doing a great job at the Worker. Her Spanish has been a wonderful asset to our community. She is loving her classes at DMACC (the community college). She is taking a political science class taught by



Brad Bates

Jeffrey Weiss and has learned a lot about world politics. She is still working at a convalescent home for children and was glad to get her job back after returning from Chiapas. She now lives at the Dingman House. That house sure did need a female presence. Claire is doing the recycling and is trying to remember what Tuesday it needs to be put out for pickup.

My sister, Jackie, has been

really busy. She and Wendy Vasquez watched my boys, Jordan and Josh, while I went to New York. She was gone for ten days to visit Graham and his family and had a great time.

Julius is a freshman at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. He loves college, especially his Business Law class. He said college is much cooler than high school.

Joshua has been doing great in 8th grade. He has been having good days. I think this might be a turning year for him.

Jordan is adjusting well to 6th grade. He found out that it really does pay off to turn in your homework. He had a wonderful time visiting Richard and his family in Maryland and said it was the highlight of his summer.

Irving has shown what a 10+ year old washing machine can do. He has been doing 3 or 4 loads of towels daily, not to mention all the dishes and cleaning he does.

Jerry is going to have cataract surgery soon. He has learned to control his diabetes.

Norman is back with us. He drives the Trinity UMC van taking folks to visit their loved ones in prison. He also has had great success growing peppers this year.

Brad Bates is our newest community member. He is a very pleasant young man. He moves a mile a minute and is always willing to pitch in. He is becoming very good at chopping onions and peeling potatoes. Please welcome him if you see him.

Our Grinnell College students are back. They come

every Saturday and work their behinds off. We are grateful that students from Grinnell have been coming for 12+ years. Saturdays don't seem the same in the summer without them.

We have Simpson College students who come on Thursdays. They are a lively bunch and probably think the basement will never be clean.

We also have Iowa State University students who come twice each semester. We were glad to see students who came last year make the return trip. I would also like to thank John Donahue for bringing up ISU students to Mass and overnight.

Dowling High School students spent most of a Sunday planting bulbs. They were joined by a group from PACE who were also doing service time. Over 500 bulbs were planted that weekend!

I would like to thank all the groups and individuals who so graciously come and give their time and talents. A special thanks to Mark and Becca Lindahl, Bob Wright, Helen Oster, Irene Michels, Mary Jo Hostetter, Vicki Wheatcraft, Bill Petsche, Don Cain, Lois Crilly, Sheila Rouse, Kari Giltner, Mark & Betty Danford and the Wegg family for making our lives brighter by giving unselfishly of themselves. May you always know you are in our hearts and prayers.

I hope everyone has a safe fall and healthy winter. Keep us in your prayers. We know how far they get us.

Peace,

Carla Dawson

P.S. Please send cash to support our ministry. We're very low on funds!

Norman's Whereabouts

by Norman Searah

It's fall. The leaves are beginning to change colors and from where I'm parked, I can see people playing a game of golf, and in another direction, I can see a farmer in his combine harvesting corn. As I am writing this article, I'm thinking about the four women that I just dropped off in front of the Anamosa Correctional Center. They are visiting their loved ones doing time in prison. I'm driving the Trinity United Methodist Church van and I'm happy that they would do something like this and thankful that they allow the DMCW to give out produce from their basement. This church has done a lot of things for a lot of people and they're heroes to me. I have a lot of heroes. At the age of 52, I'm not ashamed to say that and I would like to share some of them with you. Franklin Green is one of my heroes. He's one of the three major investors who have put work into the grocery store project in our neighborhood. They're still working on the

houses that they moved in order to build the store which they're still working on also. When it's done, it'll mean a lot to many people: jobs for local people, a closer place to shop for food for those living in the neighborhood and downtown Des Moines. Mr. Green is president of Quality Ford which is where I got my car. People there have treated me ok. If I have car trouble, I take it there.

Another person who's done a lot of work on the grocery store and the community garden along with helping with the Community Baptist Church which was recently rebuilt in the neighborhood is our local State Representative, Ed Fallon, who is also a neighbor and friend. I'm hoping to volunteer some time at the grocery store and maybe grow some veggies in the community garden. I'm praying a lot that people will appreciate it.

Our first heroes in our lives are usually our parents, and I'm no different. My mother and my father have always been my heroes.

Since I've been living at the DMCW, I find that I have gathered a lot of heroes who are

Razo, Marlia and Duck Wells, Wendy and her family are more heroes of mine. Carla Dawson and her sister, Jackie, are in this group, too. They do a lot. Besides raising children, working jobs, they help keep the DMCW going.

There's also Mike and Fran Fuller who gave up living in what I call a high price house and moved into the Catholic Worker. Ed Bloomer is a hero. He keeps in touch with loved ones back home in Louisville, Kentucky. And, there's Richard Flamer who works around the DMCW doing jobs, and giving time to talk to people and trying to raise

money for his Chiapas Project. Then there's Ted, Clair, and Brad. I call them heroes along with the many volunteers. I have a lot of other heroes. They come in many ages, size, shapes, religions, colors, nationalities, dumb, smart, funny, sad or as a diabetic

friend put it "I've got a good salad mix."

As for my diabetes, I'm still working on it. I still say that instead of learning how to kill, we ought to be learning how to heal people. We need to slow down and let the rest of the world catch up.

I thought that the Sugar Creek Retreat was good this year. I was glad that I could spend the whole weekend. I came up with an idea and shared it with others so I would like to share it with you. Why not arrange a night with the people of Sugar Creek parish, priest and friends. I figure that we could eat a meal together then watch and put on a play, *Haunted by God*. After a short time for refreshment, we could have the yearly event, the "Football Mary" event and a sing-along. Write to me and let me know what you think. I believe that it would be a good way for Sugar Creek to meet the Catholic Worker. Well, I've got to go. I thank you for your time.



friends and family. There is Frank Cordaro and his mother who I'm praying for, along with their family. Also, there are Helen Tichey, Helen Oster, Rita Hohenshell, and Irene Michels who are the "ladies club," as I call them. Bill and Jean Basinger, Mary and Hal



The Christ of the Bread Line by Fritz Eichenberg

Lord,

When I am hungry, send me someone to feed;

When I am thirsty, send me someone who needs a drink;

When I am cold, send me someone to warm;

When I am sad, send me someone to cheer;

When I need understanding, send me someone who needs mine;

When I need to be looked after, send me someone to care for;

When I think only of myself, draw my thoughts to another.

So let us pray as though everything depends on God, and work as though God depends on us for everything.

Amen

Catholic Worker Hospitality

We at the Des Moines Catholic Worker open our door five days a week to needs in the neighborhood and welcome whoever comes to the door as a guest in our home. We attempt to implement the teachings of the Gospels and promote the biblical promise of mercy, compassion, justice and love.

Both lunch and dinner are served and we try to keep a big pot of hot coffee available. Between 60 and 80 people come for a meal and as many as 100 often come on Sundays. Our guests are welcome to use our phone and have their mail delivered here.

Many people take advantage of our shower facilities. We give away canned goods, blankets, toiletries and clothing. Twice a month nurses volunteer their services and there is a monthly free legal clinic available.

Since we accept no government money and are not financially supported by any foundation or denomination, we depend on individuals and groups and individual churches for food, supplies and money.

We Des Moines Catholic Worker community members are not paid for our work. We offer our time and energy in the spirit of



personal sacrifice and invite others to do the same. As you can probably imagine, our needs are great. Our biggest need is your prayers. Without them, none of the rest really matters.

We are currently very short on cash. Please consider donating money to help our ministry.

The need for nonperishable food items is greater than ever. Especially

needed are coffee, canned soup, stew, chili, beans, fruit and vegetables. We also need toiletry items such as disposable shavers, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, men's white tube socks, toilet paper, kleenex, maxi-pads and paper towels. Also needed are men's clothing items: winter coats, hats, gloves, jeans, sweatshirts and t-shirts.

We are always looking for individuals or work crews to help with maintenance, renovation and general cleaning. There is a lot of yard and garden work to be done.

You are invited to come and help us out with the hospitality. Card or chess players or folks who like to have a cup of coffee and chat are always welcome! Just give us a call or drop by. Our address is 1310 - 7th St., Des Moines, IA, 515-243-0765.

"Rich" Wisdom

The following is an email received recently by the *via pacis* editor from a DM Catholic Worker volunteer:

Mother Teresa is always talking about love and Eucharist in her work. The recent lectionary reading (Matthew 22:34-40) on the two most important commandments were about love of God (1st) and love of neighbor (2nd). I have a theory...

There is only one commandment necessary...Love your "neighbor." If you do that, you will love God with your whole heart and soul. That's why being effective doesn't matter to me. I don't worry about making the DMCW guests "better" or "productive." The mis-

sion of my wife and to let them know they are our friends that we care for them that we love them.

We aren't trying to be gooders, we are trying to let them know that we have value to us as people who serve our love and patience and compassion.

And guess what? I found that they've entered to us in the process. And they've helped us heal our wounds (broken-ness (or as we suffered with us)). What GRACE is all about isn't it? Grace given, grace received. What I am learning about the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Lamb.

Rich And



L to R: Dan Justin, Rosie Ryan, Kathleen (Kat) Tinley, Jason Beste from the Spirit of Peace Community, Creighton University, Omaha, NE

On October 19, Kat Tinley spoke at Drake University in Des Moines about her family's experience in the death of her son who was killed in the World Trade Center tragedy. She is a member of an organization known as 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. Peaceful Tomorrows is an advocacy organization founded by family members of 9/11 victims. Its mission is to promote effective nonviolent responses to terrorism, and identify commonality with all people similarly affected by violence. By conscientiously exploring peaceful responses to our search for justice, they choose to spare additional families the suffering that they have already experienced, as well as to break the endless cycle of violence and retaliation engendered by war. For more information visit www.peacefultomorrow.org.



2002 Hiroshima/Nagasaki

This photo was taken at our witness against terrorism at the Force Base's STRATCOM, the US Strategic Nuclear Command, the place from which acts of terror are planned and carried out.

Marian Solomon, age 72 (first person on the right) is a line crosser and was issued a "ban and bar" letter for protesting segregation in the 1960s, participated in Vietnam War rallies in the 1970s, and distributed school children during that nation's political unrest in the 1980s.

Now her focus is the Middle East. Marian traveled earlier this year and is now in Iraq with a dozen other activists. This trip is sponsored by Voices in the Wilderness Peacemaker Teams. For more information visit www.nonviolence.org/viw/ and www.cpt.org.

DMC Catholic Worker Photo Album



Des Moines Catholic Worker Musical Act
2002 Sugar Creek Talent Show



Denver & Sheila

Community Garden

There are great plans underway for a bigger and better community garden in the DMCW neighborhood.

Sheila Rouse has taken on the responsibility of being Garden Coordinator and has already put a lot of sweat and energy into making it come to life.

Plans are for a fruit orchard, grape arbor and gazebo as well as individual garden plots for use by people in the neighborhood. It will all be surrounded by a white picket fence. Salvation Army will be adding an expanded playground area as well.

Groups responsible for this neighborhood beautification project are: Teva Dawson of Des Moines Community Garden Project, Ed Fallon of 1000 Friends of Iowa, Tom Dunbar of Dunbar-Jones, HOME, Inc., and Bethel Mission.

Thank you all!



Fr. Dan Krettek



Our Candidate for the next Pope

THANK YOU NORWALK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

These folks have been providing a meal to our guests once a month for the past twelve years! Their generosity has filled many hungry stomachs with a hot meal, and their faithfulness has been a witness of love to us all. Both physical and spiritual hunger is satisfied as they serve each month. Without people like these, we wouldn't been able to keep our doors open. Thank you, Norwalk UMC!



Craig & Nancy McDonald



Lisa Wagner (center) and two fans

Haunted by God

Fran Fuller

ki Vigil
October 24th, the one-
man production of
clear Command
d carried out
(ht) was the
Moines as a fundraiser
Catholic Peace Ministry.
Wagner is the star per-
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chool supplies
tical strife in
veled to Palest
other peace
erness and Ch
formation, s
marvel at the wisdom,

courage and love of God that marked Dorothy's life.

The writers said, "One of our favorite lines from the play is: 'All I ask is that you find a useful task to do, carry it out responsibly and manage somehow not to infuriate those around you.' We hope that Dorothy would recognize her instructions being followed out in our work."

For ten years, Lisa has toured the country and overseas with *Haunted by God*. She has also performed *Points of Arrival: a Jean Donovan Journey*, a play that

explores the life and commitment of one of the four North American church women killed in El Salvador in 1980.

Three years ago, Lisa began a theatre program for women at Chicago's Metropolitan Correctional Center and has recently established a similar program at the Cook County jail.

For more information or to inquire about booking a performance, write to:

Still Point Theatre Collective
1337 W. Ohio
Chicago, IL 60622



DMCWer Claire Quiner with Ron & Katie Routh

Photo by Bob & Tess Koenig



Fr. Frank Cordaro and John Heid

Passing on the Prison Bat

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Freedom is grand! The best part of going to jail is getting out! The time from jail to the streets does take some time. I'm just now getting to feel comfortable in my room with most of the backed-up paper work and correspondence.

For the time being I am living at the DMCW doing fill-in weekend Masses as needed. I'm hoping my living arrangement at the DMCW continues and I can have a parish assignment close to Des Moines. We will see. It's great to be back at the DMCW and living in community. The folks at the DMCW seem to handle things well. They cut me no slack, give me no deference and keep me humble, which should be. Come visit us!

In the photo at left, I'm passing on the prison baton to John Heid. It was on September 4th at my "Coming Out of Prison Party, Mass and Potluck" at the Des Moines Catholic Worker. John Heid is currently serving a seven month prison sentence for protesting at the SOA and ELF. John is a member of the Anathoth Resistance Community in Luck WI.

Peace, Fr. Frank

Fr. Frank's Prison Writings and Reflections are posted on the Des Moines Catholic Worker Web page. Check it out at: www.no-nukes.org/dmcw/

GRANDMOTHER'S CALL TO END WAR

by Carmen Lampe-Zeitler

(From a speech given at a Grandmothers for Peace Rally on 9/29/02)

I suppose from the beginning I should confess that I am not a grandmother, even though children I know and work with think I am old enough to be their grandmother. Alas, I am not a grandmother, but I have been grand-mothered, fiercely grand-mothered, and maybe that's just what we, what we as a nation, need—some fierce grand-mothering—like that we are experiencing here today.

We are called together today by some fierce grandmothers as well. Barbara Bradley, one of the catalysts for this rally, in an interview, even compared grandmothers to tigers. It is an apt description of the grandmothers who have made this call to us today. With them, we are making real the possibilities of this day. The possibility of an end to wars! The possibility of well-being for all children everywhere! The possibility of another way! The possibility of peace in our world! We gather in possibility!

We gather also to iron out a few things. War is not an answer. Those who have called us here are powerful witnesses to that truth. Their fathers went to World War I (the first war to end all wars), their husbands went to World War II (the second war to end all wars), their brothers and their friends went to Korea, their sons went to Vietnam. No more! War is not the answer. It is absurd to do the same thing over and over and over again, expecting different results. The absurdity must stop. It is a foolhardy myth that violence can do good, that bombs can be smart, or missiles can be peacemakers. Our nations' involvement in wars must end!

The Dalai Lama, shortly af-



ter September 11, said, "War is out of date...In the context of our newly-emerging global community, all forms of violence, including war, are totally inappropriate means of settling disputes... there would be no winners at all if another global conflict were to occur today." War is not an answer.

And there is another thing that needs ironing out. Not only is war ineffective, war is immoral. We see most dramatically the immorality of war in the toll it takes on children. "At the beginning of the twentieth century civilians accounted for... 15% of war casualties, in World War II, 50% of those who died were civilians. Today 90% of those killed or wounded in war are civilians, mainly women, children, [and older people]" (From *Children in War* by Alan and Susan Raymond, p. 9). We may never know how many civilians have died in the war in Afghanistan. We do know from United Nations data that a half a million Iraqi children have died under the sanctions imposed after the Persian Gulf War. And for what? If what we are being told is true, apparently the sanctions have done nothing to prevent Saddam Hussein from continuing to build the arsenal the United States helped him begin two decades ago.

The immortality of war is not limited to what happens to some elsewhere. The immortality shows up on our very doorstep. All costs in war are human costs, not only in terms

of the dead and wounded, but in terms of what goes undone in a nation in order to fuel the military machine. War is paid for largely on the backs of children and the more vulnerable in the society. Just last week the word went out that 900,000 children in this country are in immediate jeopardy of losing health coverage due to reduction and recall of federal funding. That's before a war with Iraq is begun. Who



and what will be lost if our leaders succeed in taking us down that path?

William Sloan Coffin, a giant in the resistance to the war in Vietnam, has said, "What is grossly immoral cannot in the long run be politically expedient." We say to our elected leaders and those who would become or remain elected leaders, war is immoral.

There is yet another thing that needs ironing out, there is another way. What if, just as a beginning, we stood back? Resolved not to rush headlong and hell-bent into anything. Determined to get off the violence track, to get creative. Remember, we are all in this together. What if instead of spending a million dollars on one missile (Yes, we do that, did that, against Afghanistan, one of the poorest countries on earth.), we spent serious resources on finding ways to offer food, literacy, healthcare to the citizens of Iraq; end the sanctions (perhaps in exchange for cooperation with U.N. inspec-

tions); try to build relationships instead of only disarmament agreements? Then maybe some of the 22 million Iraqis who oppose Hussein could find the strength and resolve, by non-violent means, to resist his power, end the injustice, and the oppression. It has been done in the American South, in South Africa, in Poland, in the Czech Republic, in the Philippines, in the Soviet Union. It could be done in Iraq. What if we joined with other nations, with the U.N., to establish in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction as specified in the original Gulf War ceasefire agreement? Then we might move together toward realizing the hope expressed on the Isaiah Wall in front of the U.N. building in New York: "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they study war anymore." There is another way.

Now that we've gotten those



things ironed out: war is not the answer, war is immoral, there is another way, we need to press on, to peace. These are the strategies I have heard just sitting around the table with some of those fierce grandmothers:

"We need to oppose the war in Iraq. Contact the President, the vice-president, members of Congress, cabinet members, not just once, but often. Sojourner Truth, an illiterate slave woman, gave her every

effort to what seemed a hopeless cause of slavery. Once we were heckled during a rally by a man who said, 'You're just a woman, I don't care about your anti-war stance.' I snapped back, 'I'm older than for an old fellow.' The Lord was with me, I kept my right. The Lord was with me, I kept my right. We need to keep our right. If you're not doing anything else, you need an iron to Washington. Let them know we are about pressing on. Now.

"We need to reach ourselves about the U.S.' involvement in Iraq. Seek out alternative sources in print, television. Get one of the peace activists on a courage forum. Create a community, create a concern among us. Write letters to the editor. Join the one who will help build a choir of voices.

"We need to explore possibilities for all children. Foster high hopes, dreams for the future. Today we are in this place, being on the board to do that. Be fierce in our determination. Be relentless in our will to make real change for the children. The possibility of peace in our world!

For more information, visit www.grandmothersforpeace.org/

Brian Terrence
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Patti Kelly

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Resistance Notes

Come to Fort Benning

November 15, 16, 17, 2002

For more information on the event nationally contact:
SOA Watch
PO Box 4566
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 234-3440
www.soaw.org

will travel to Fort Benning, GA, for the annual "School of the Americas" vigil and nonviolent civil disobedience protest. We will be driving out with our community and may have room for a few extra people. We will be with other Catholic Workers at the event. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Fran Fuller at (515) 282-2222 or franciefuller@msn.com.



The 14 line-crossers



Brian Terrell & Rachel Howell of the Catholic Worker Farm



Patti Kelly and daughter, Brooke



Nate, Rich & Jodi Anderson

October 26th
Hundreds of Thousands of Americans say "NO!"

more information
grandmothersforpeace.org
war rally was held
Iowa National Guard
quarters in Des Moines
October 26. Fourteen
were arrested for
going onto base property
attempt to stop a crime
being committed. The
is the U.S. sending
members of the 132nd
Wing to Iraq in No-
vember to patrol the no-fly
zones were held all over
world on October 26 as
Americans spoke out
against President Bush's
pre-emptive strike

in Iraq. Over 100,000 people joined the rally in Washington, D.C. and 80,000 turned out in San Francisco.

Two hundred and sixty people gathered at Nollen Plaza in downtown Des Moines following the line-crossing at the Guard base in protest of the threat of military action against Iraq. Many speakers added their voices with much encouragement from the crowd.

A unilateral attack by the U.S. will inflame anti-U.S. sentiment and may stimulate more attacks by extremists. An at-

tack by the U.S. would be illegal and immoral. The American people have deep misgivings about this war. Many people know deep down that this war makes no sense. They are starting to speak up and make themselves heard.

You can add your voice to activities in your community.

Alternative media sources:
www.commondreams.org
www.alternet.org
www.fair.org
www.war-times.org
www.afsc.org
www.counterPunch.org

The Flight into Egypt by Gary Donatelli



24th Annual Feast of the Holy Innocents

The Des Moines Catholic Worker community invites you to join us for the 24th Annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Retreat, Witness & Line Crossing at STRATCOM & Space Command Headquarters on December 26 - 28, 2002.

"As I travel, there is the belief that the nuclear arms race, the danger of nuclear holocaust, has passed. This is a deception. The nuclear arms race is far from over. We must pursue the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. A decade after the end of the Cold War, there remain 35,000 nuclear weapons in the world. More than 5,000 of these in the U.S. & Russia are on a hair-trigger alert. By accident, or on purpose, they can destroy their target cities in less than an hour," said Bishop Thomas Gumbleton at a March 3, 1999, Nebraska for Peace Peacemaking Award acceptance speech.

Offutt Air Force Base (AFB) has served as the home of our nation's nuclear weapons targeting and command headquarters for over 50 years. Formerly the Strategic Air Command, now the Strategic Command (STRATCOM), Offutt AFB holds the rest of the world under a threat of global nuclear annihilation every day, every hour, every minute of the year.

And just this year the US Military Space Command has been added to Offutt Air Force Base's evil commands.

We invite you to come and celebrate with us the full and often ignored meaning of the Christmas story. Come and help us expose, confront and convert our country's God-awful nuclear weapon's operational headquarters and War in Space Command.

This year's retreat will in the basement of St John's Church on Creighton University campus at 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE. St. John's Parish is providing us this space to use for our retreat, the second year in a row! Phone number to use during the retreat is 402-280-3031.

This year's retreat is also co-sponsored by the Spirit of Peace Community. Spirit of Peace is a faith-based, intentional Peace and Justice community of Creighton University students living off campus together. Their mailing address is 3212 and 3218 Webster Street, Omaha, NE, 68131. Phone: 402-991-4586.

The retreat begins at 7 pm Thursday night, December 26, with a Christmas party. On Friday, December 27, we will drive to Offutt AFB for a brief prayer service and reading of St. Mathew's Infant Narrative. Nonviolence Training, Community Building, Bible Study and Prayer will also take place on Friday. The Retreat will end with a Vigil and Line Crossing at Offutt AFB Saturday, December 28.

Contact Fr. Frank Cordaro for more information at 515-243-0765 or email him at cordaro@mchsi.com.

via pacis

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